

ON AN UNDESCRIBED *DULES* FROM NEW GUINEA.

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(NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.)

DULES NITENS. sp. nov.

B. vi.: D. 10/11: A. 3/11: V. 1/5: P. 14: C. 17: L. lat. 51-53: L. trans. 5/13: Vert. 10/15.

Length of head $4\frac{1}{8}$, of caudal fin $4\frac{2}{3}$, height of body $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the total length. *Eye*—large, its diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ in the length of the head, $\frac{4}{7}$ of a diameter from the end of the snout, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the same apart. Interorbital space almost flat. Snout with a slight concavity; occiput rugose, terminating posteriorly in an angular ridge. Lower jaw much the longer; cleft of the mouth of moderate size, and oblique. The maxilla reaches to beneath the anterior third of the orbit, and is dilated and rounded posteriorly. Opercle with two flat pungent spines, the lower of which is the longer; sub- and inter-opercle very finely serrated, the teeth becoming obsolete in old examples; preopercle with fine denticulations on both limbs, those on the rounded and slightly produced angle the strongest; lower edge of preorbital, and post-temporal bones finely serrated. *Teeth*—Villiform on jaws, vomer, and palatines. *Fins*—dorsal spines moderately strong, increasing in length to the fifth, which measures $\frac{5}{8}$ of that of the head; from thence they decrease quickly in height to the ninth, which is about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the last; the rays are not nearly so high as the spines, but the base of the soft portion of the fin is $\frac{5}{7}$ of the spinous, while that of the soft anal is rather more than the soft dorsal; the dorsal commences above the 6th scale of the lateral line, and ends above

the 34th, while the anal commences beneath the 22nd and ends beneath the 37th ; the second anal spine is equally strong, but not so long as the third, which is rather more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of that of the head : the ventral fin is strong, truncate behind, not quite reaching to the vent ; the pectoral fin is short, less than $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length, and reaches to the 13th lateral line scale : caudal forked. *Scales*—moderate, ctenoid, firmly adherent ; 11 rows between base of ventral fin and lateral line, 4 between the orbit and the preopercular angle, and 3 across the opercle ; dorsal and anal fins with a basal scaly sheath ; pectorals with a small basal patch outside ; caudal covered with minute scales almost to the tips of the lobes. Upper and under surfaces of the head, orbital ring, maxilla, and the margins of the opercle and preopercle scaleless. *Lateral line*—but slightly curved, its tubes simple. *Pseudobranchiæ*—well developed. *Gill-rakers*—long and slender, about 36 in number, the longest being almost $\frac{1}{2}$ a diameter of the orbit. The length of the abdominal portion of the vertebral column is to that of the caudal as 1 to 1.72. *Colors*—uniform silvery, the back washed with green ; fins immaculate.

The fishes from which the above description was taken are three in number, and measure individually from $9\frac{1}{5}$ to $10\frac{2}{3}$ inches in length. They belong to a collection purchased by the Australian Museum from Mr. Cairns, and were obtained by him on the South-east coast of New Guinea. Register number of type specimen I. 945.